

Supreme Court and MDOC
High Definition Video Conferencing Projects
Courts Information Sheet
May 31, 2013

Supreme Court Video Project Goals

- Reduce Michigan Department of Correction (MDOC) prisoner transport costs for court proceedings. (Historical costs are \$5M per year)
- Increase Michigan State Police (MSP) Forensic Labs productivity. (Historical backlog is over 12 months)
- Improve public safety by avoiding prisoner transports (Public is safest when prisoners are in a secure facility)
- Byproduct Benefits:
 - Court Room evidence display improvements
 - Local police and sheriff cost savings for inmate transports
 - Local court cost savings through assigned attorney travel reductions
 - Less travel for multi-county/court location Judges

Video Projects Background

- Supreme Court:
 - The Supreme Court JIS Video Project has deployed high definition video systems to court rooms in 68 of the 83 counties in Michigan since 2010. The remaining 15 counties are targeted for 2013.
 - Supreme Court JIS provides a Video Specialist to support local Court Administrators, Judges, and IT Staff, providing a variety of educational, procedural, technical, or operational support.
- MDOC Court and WRIT Unit:
 - MDOC has deployed video conferencing to all its prison facilities for court proceeding purposes.
 - MDOC has created the Court & Writ Unit as a “single stop shop” for courts. The MDOC Court & WRIT Unit schedules video court proceedings, acts as a conduit between prison facilities, field offices, attorneys, other agencies and the courts to streamline all requested proceedings involving inmates, and is also able to conduct video test calls with courts.
- MSP Forensics:
 - Michigan State Police (MSP) has deployed High Definition Video Conferencing systems to every MSP Forensic Lab in the State of Michigan for Expert Witness Testimony purposes.
- To date the combined efforts of the Supreme Court, MDOC, and the local courts have reduced MDOC transport costs by over \$1.2M per year

Sample Uses for Video Proceedings

- Arraignment Hearings are held via video with inmates in local jails or MDOC facilities.
- Family and child custody proceedings are held via video to engage incarcerated family members
- Neglect proceedings can be held with parents who are held in MDOC custody.
- Sentencing and re-sentencing are held with inmates held in out-of-state, MDOC, or county jails.
- Probation Violation Hearings are held via video with witnesses appearing remotely.
- Parole Violation Hearings are held via video with the defendant appearing remotely.
- Application to Set Aside Convictions can be held via video with the petitioner appearing from out of state.
- Civil motions are held to accommodate attorneys who are remote to the local area. Judges can approve these to save time and travel, the savings of which can then be passed along to their clients.
- MSP Forensic experts can provide remote expert witness testimony enabling significant increases in productivity by avoiding what is often long travel and wait times to court cases.
- During H1N1 virus scare, some courts conducted hearings with defendants who were possibly contagious.

Resources and Contacts

- Local Courts Video Support - Supreme Court Video Specialist
 - The Supreme Court provides support to local courts so they can maximize the use of video
 - Support is delivered through a Video Specialist who is available for Court Administrators, Judges, and IT Staff
 - Support Includes:
 - Unscheduled or scheduled assistance
 - Video education for individuals or groups
 - General Trouble shooting or break-fix support
 - Answers to procedural or court rules questions
 - Courts and MDOC Video Unit Dialing Directory Updates
 - State of Michigan IP Registration and trouble shooting of video calls to MDOC facilities
 - Issues that stand in the way of utilizing video for court proceedings
 - Supreme Court Video Specialist Contact Information
Jim Ewing – 313-515-3334 – jebc1@jebc.onmicrosoft.com
- MDOC Central Court & WRIT Unit
- The MDOC Court & WRIT Unit was re-organized to provide a better and simpler experience for local courts. Services include:
 - Proceeding scheduling
 - Acts as a conduit between prison facilities, field offices, attorneys, other agencies and the courts to streamline all requested proceedings involving inmates
 - Conduct video test calls with courts. Call Rachel Johnson to assist with and verify MDOC connectivity
 - Uses email to simplify the video scheduling process
 - Facilitates pre-trial hearings or Attorney consults.
 - Assists courts if needed at the time of the video call
 - Note: Lynette Holloway of MDOC has retired. Central WRIT is the First Tier Contact for Video Support
 - Contact Information:
 - Main Number: 1-855-MDOCWRIT
 - Fax: 517-780-6984
 - Manager: Rachel Johnson – 517-780-6463 - JohnsonR39@michigan.gov
 - Writ Coordinators:
 - Paul Channels - 517-780-5621
 - Breanna Hurst - 517-780-6467
 - Laurie Scott - 517-780-6121
- Video Test Sites
 - Video Test Sites are available 24 x 365 for court test calls. Each site is set to auto answer so courts can initiate test calls to verify connectivity on an unscheduled basis.
 - Test Site Dialing Addresses:
 - Supreme Court Test Unit (HOJ) – 135@12.232.9.10
 - Supreme Court Test Unit (JE) – 75.41.109.236
 - MDOC Bellamy Creek Hearings – 67002@167.240.254.114
 - MDOC Cotton Hearings - 36002@167.240.254.114